

1673 Louser Road
Annville, PA 17003
January 23, 2001

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FDA Commissioner Jane Henney
Dockets Management Branch (HFA 305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fisher's Lane, rm. 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket No. 00D-1598

Dear Ms. Henney,

I am outraged by your new policies that merely make labeling of genetically engineered (GE) foods voluntary. Even though tens of thousands of people have already expressed their desire for mandatory labeling and the need for safety testing of GE foods, your agency still fails to require these actions. This new, voluntary policy is an insult to consumers, and irresponsibly ignores strong scientific evidence of numerous potential health and environmental risks from GE foods.


These foods, simply because they have not been tested, pose serious threats to human health and the environment. GE foods could be toxic, cause allergic reactions, cause impaired immune system responses, have reduced nutritional values, and cause irreparable damage to the environment. The agency failed to consider what will happen to human health once these foods comprise a significant portion of our diets. In finding that GE foods are "substantially equivalent" to non-GE food, the agency failed in its duty to protect the American public from the corporate profit motive.

I am strongly opposed to the voluntary labeling policy, which denies consumers a basic right-to-know what is in their food. Without mandatory labeling, neither consumers nor health professionals will know if an allergic or toxic reaction was the result of a genetically engineered food. Consumers will also be deprived of the critical knowledge they need to hold food producers liable should any of GE foods prove hazardous.

We have a right-to-choose the food that we believe is the most wholesome and safest food to eat. Without a mandatory labeling scheme for GE foods and irradiated foods, I will have no way of knowing what is in my food.

I will not accept your attempt to make my family guinea pigs for these untested foods. The only positive from this action is a strong advocacy for farmer's markets and natural food stores, which will hopefully put the corporations producing GE food out of business.

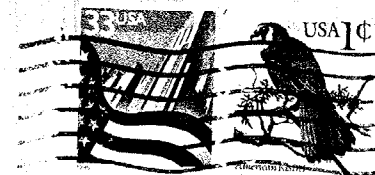
Sincerely,


Rachel R. Noll

00D-1598

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Ms. Rachel R. Noll
1673 Louser Rd
Annville PA 17003-8856



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